

United States Committee on the Oceanography of the Pacific

THE FIRST MEETING of the United States Committee on the Oceanography of the Pacific was held on June 19 and 20, 1948, at the California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco, California. This committee was established in 1947 by the National Research Council through the Pacific Science Board to replace the former American National Committee on the Oceanography of the Pacific. Members of the reconstituted committee are Thomas G. Thompson (chairman), Director of the Oceanographic Laboratories, University of Washington; Richard H. Fleming, Chief, Oceanographic Division, Hydrographic Office, Department of the Navy, Washington, D.C.; Robert C. Miller, Director, California Academy of Sciences, San Francisco; Charles J. Fish, Supervisor, Pacific Oceanic Biology Project, Oceanographic Institution, Woods Hole; Oscar E. Sette, Director, Pacific Oceanic Fishery Investigation, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, University of Hawaii, Honolulu; Roger Revelle, Associate Director, Scripps Institution of Oceanography, La Jolla; and Robert W. Hiatt, Chairman, Department of Zoology and Entomology, University of Hawaii, Honolulu. Harold J. Coolidge, Executive Secretary of the Pacific Science Board, met with the Committee.

The organization of American participation in oceanography and marine biology at the Seventh Pacific Science Congress to be held in New Zealand during February, 1949, occupied most of the agenda. It was decided that presentations at the Congress should be classified in three categories: (1) over-all reports covering the decade since the last Congress, (2) local regional programs, and (3) the high seas Pacific Basin program. Suitable titles covering these phases were formulated and scientists active in the various fields were asked to prepare papers for presentation at New Zealand. Two symposia, one concerning conservation of marine resources and the other involving marine biogeographical provinces in the Pacific Basin, were recommended for inclusion in the program.

A second topic on the agenda dealt with the need for standardization of gear and methods, and methods and arrangements for correlation and integration of programs involving the oceanography of the North Pacific Basin. Since

the absence of Japanese scientists from the New Zealand Congress precludes the possibility of considering these items in detail, it was deemed advisable to hold a conference on this subject after the Congress at a time when investigators from all nations who would participate in oceanographic research in the North Pacific Basin would be able to attend. A subcommittee composed of Charles J. Fish (chairman), Robert W. Hiatt, and William C. Herrington was appointed to consider the matter.

Continuation of the work between Congresses was considered highly desirable, and to this end a recommendation will be made to the Science Congress that each country appoint a representative to serve as a member of a "Standing Committee on Oceanography." It is hoped that implementation of suggestions for co-ordinated work made at each Congress will be facilitated through such special channels.

A special report by R. W. Hiatt on the development of the Hawaiian oceanographic research and training program in relation to the establishment of the Hawaii Marine Laboratory and the initiation of the vast program of research on tunas undertaken by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service was presented. Plans have been formulated or are being formulated for co-operation with several mainland institutions including the University of California and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. C. J. Fish reported on the progress of the Pacific Oceanic Biology Project which was created by the Office of Naval Research upon recommendation of the Pacific Science Conference and is being carried out under contract with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution. Plans being developed for continuation after September, 1948, emphasize training of oceanic biologists who are needed before field work can begin. Arrangements have been made with Rhode Island State College and its Narragansett Marine Laboratory to provide academic training and field experience for graduate students prior to their assignment for study under specialists at Woods Hole. Close co-operation with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Hawaiian training program will be maintained.—R.W.H.